

49. (New) The display apparatus as claimed in Claim 47, wherein said upper electrode is a metal thin film.

50. (New) The display apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said rib includes an insulating material formed as an island separating four adjacent pixels of the plurality of pixels.

51. (New) The display apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said rib includes an insulating material formed as an island separating four adjacent pixels of the plurality of pixels.

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 28-45 were withdrawn in a previous response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-27 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 13 was amended and claims 46-51 were added. Accordingly, Claims 1-27 and 46-51 are at issue in the above-identified application.

I. Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because the first, second, and third electrodes of independent claim 13 and the electron and hole transport layers of claim 25 were inadvertently not labeled in the drawings. Applicants have submitted herewith proposed changes to Figures 3A-3C to identify the first and second electrodes as source/drain electrodes (6A and 6B of wiring 6) of the thin-film transistor 2 consistent with the specification. (See Application, pg. 10, lines 5-12). Applicants have amended claim 13 to remove the reference to the third electrode. Applicants have also submitted herewith a new formal drawing for Figure 5D that corresponds to Figure 5C and identifies the electron transport layer (26 in Fig. 5D) and the hole transport layer (22 in Fig. 5D) consistent with the specification. (See Application, pg. 13, lines 14-20).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the features or limitations specified in claims 13 and 25 are shown in the drawings and respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

II. Objection To Specification

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention and requested a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicants have specified a new title with this amendment. In addition, Applicants have amended the specification in accordance with the proposed drawing changes in Figures 3A-3C to clarify certain aspects of Applicants' invention. No new matter has been introduced.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Anticipation Rejection of Claims and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-5 and 7-10, of which claim 1 is independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being purportedly anticipated by Kim, US Patent No. 6,099,746. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants claim a display apparatus having a plurality of pixels and including the following limitations, among others:

"...said plurality of pixels are partitioned by a rib larger in thickness than said light emitting layer and having at least a conductive material; and

said conductive material is electrically connected to said second electrode."

Applicants teach that the conductive material (e.g., layer 14b of the rib 14) may serve as an auxiliary wiring for the second electrode (e.g., upper common electrode 12) of claim 1 to suppress the voltage gradient of the second electrode within a plane of the display apparatus, so

that the voltage drop at around the center of the display plane may be suppressed and sufficient luminous intensity of the light emitting layer may be provided even when a protective insulating film (e.g., layer 16) is formed directly on the second electrode of claim 1. (See Application, pg 19, lines 4-15).

Kim discloses an organic electroluminescent device as shown in Fig. 2e that have partition walls 13 that "may be made of either organic or inorganic materials as long as they are electrically insulating..." (Kim, Col. 3, lines 61.65). Thus, Kim teaches away from having a rib that partitions pixels and that has a conductive material that is electrically connected to said second electrode of the display apparatus as taught and claimed by applicants.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Kim fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1 and respectfully request the rejection to this claim be withdrawn.

Claims 4-5 and 7-10 depend from claim 1 and should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 5-14, and 17-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being purported anticipated by Kawasaki, US Patent No. 6,281,552. The Examiner also rejected Claims 15-16 as being unpatentable over Kawasaki in view of Kim. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that Kawasaki is an improper reference under 102(e). Applicants' Application has an effective filing date of October 28, 1999 based on Applicants' claim for foreign priority to Japanese Application P11-306245. Kawasaki has an effective U.S. filing date of Mar. 22, 2000. Applicants will submit a translation of Japanese Application P11-306245 to perfect their claim for priority.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1-2, 5-16, and 17-27 are distinguishable over the cited prior art and request that the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

IV. Newly Added Claims

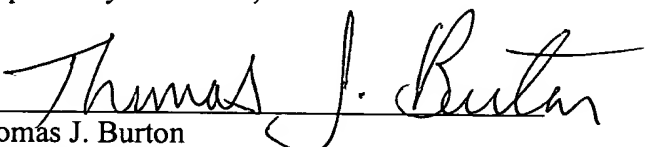
Applicants respectfully submit for consideration new claims 46-51 to further clarify Applicants' invention. Claims 46-51 provide limitations to Claim 1 that are discussed in the specification in reference to Figure 8 and to Figure 9. (See Application at pg. 19 lines 10-24; pg. 20 line 19 - pg. 21 line 13; Fig. 8; Application at pg. 21 lines 14-27; Fig. 9.)

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims now pending are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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